

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : C/OS/TR

DATE: 5 April 1956

FROM : AC/OS/TR

SUBJECT: U.S.A.F. Training Program

1. The third course provided by CIA to support the U.S.A.F. clandestine intelligence collection program was run from 23 January 1956 to 8 March 1956. It was received with genuine enthusiasm both by the students and by the Air Force authorities involved. Colonel Reeder, of the DI/USAF staff expressed his deep appreciation and high regard for the CIA efforts and stated that he was highly pleased with the results obtained.

2. The ten-man student body was composed of six officers and four airmen and, as in previous classes, was apparently selected on the basis of individual language qualifications. The students ranged from twenty-six to forty-nine years of age. The group included several persons with limited intelligence experience, two with approximately ten continuous years in intelligence work and one airman with previous CIA staff training and experience. The educational background was equally diverse and ranged from one student who had completed three years of high school to one student with a law school degree. Two of the students were selected as potential instructors and will participate in a portion of the instruction in the forthcoming class to begin 16 April 1956. One of the potential instructors had returned recently from a fifteen months assignment as Operations Officer with [redacted]

3. The course was confined to basic Tradecraft instruction which was presented through informal lectures, supplemented by reading material, case histories and critiques, written problems, training films and street problems. A detailed list of the training material utilized is attached as Appendix A. The training emphasized basic tradecraft concepts embodied in security, investigative and protective techniques, communications, recruiting and other agent functions. An orientation and

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4. Written evaluations were prepared on all students. The evaluations were based on the trainee's performance in written tests, "live" problems, critiques and oral participation in classroom discussions, and on personal interviews which were conducted to determine the students' overall grasp of the material presented. In addition, representatives of Assessment and Evaluation/CTR administered tests to determine the suitability of the trainees for participation in clandestine activity. The Assessment and Evaluation findings were submitted to the Air Force to assist them in forming a basis for a formal U.S.A.F. evaluation of the students' performance.

5. One of the ten students demonstrated an above average ability to grasp and assimilate the material presented and to apply the methods and techniques to practical situations. Eight trainees were average in their overall performance. One student, an airman, was below average in his performance. This man was the oldest member of the class and will be eligible for thirty year retirement from the Air Force in several years. Without exception, it was recommended that the trainees be given on-the-job training and the opportunity to gain additional experience before taking on agent-handling assignments.

6. During the course, the five Air Force staff instructors were given an opportunity to gain experience, proficiency and maturity by assisting in portions of the lectures and in planning and executing all of the "live" problems in the training program. It is significant to note that, with the assistance of the Air Force staff instructors, it was possible to increase the number of "live" or street problems from ten to twenty during the training program.

7. At the conclusion of the training period, all students were requested to submit an objective critique of the training program:

- a. All of the students enjoyed the course and felt that they gained considerably from it.
- b. There was unanimous agreement that the course be made longer in duration.

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Attachment: Appendix A.

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